A scheme has been introduced to grant autonomy to deserving colleges.

Model curricula has been prepared for various disciplines for upgradation of the syllabi at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Financial assistance is provided for improvement of teaching and research under special assistance programmes such as, Centres of Advanced Study; Departments of Special Assistance, Strengthening of the Infrastructure in Science and Technology; etc.

Inter-University Centres have been set up to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university stystem.

दिल्ली से शिर्डी तक सुपरफास्ट रेलगाड़ी चलाने की मांग

4022. **श्री ज्ञान रंजन:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लाखों-करोड़ों श्रद्धालु शिर्डी में सांईबाबा के मंदिर जाते हैं परंतु कोपरगांव रेलवे स्टेशन से मंदिर तक जाने के लिए कोई सुविधा नहीं है;

(ख) क्या सरकार बाबा के भक्तों को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयों को देखते हुए शिर्डी सांई स्टेशन और दिल्ली से शिर्डी तक सुपरफास्ट रेलगाड़ी चलाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) जी हां, बहरहाल, उनके लिए मनमाड से कोपरगांव तक एक अच्छी सड़क सुविधा है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता क्योंकि शिरडी सांई नाम का कोई स्टेशन नहीं है।

Newsreport on urea packaging deal scandal

4023. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Financial Express dated the 26th August, 1996, captioned "NFL bags 10 crore loss in packing deal scandal";

(b) whether it is a fact that the National Fertilizers Ltd. (NFL) procured sub-standard plastic and jute bags for urea packaging worth Rs.50 crores; and

(c) if so, what are the details/reasons for NFL's contravention of standardized bidding procedures and purchase orders and whether any inquiry has been made against this fraudulent transaction by NFL officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Based on a preliminary inquiry conducted by National Fertilizers Ltd., it is observed that there is a *prima-facie* case of irregularity in the matter of purchase of bagging material by the Bhatinda unit of National Fertilizers Ltd. It has accordingly been decided to entrust the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation for detailed investigation. In the meantime, four officers involved in the matter have been placed under suspension.

Appointment of Bonafide Students in DMS Milk Booths

4024. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme appoints bonafide students to market